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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

II. Replies received from Governments

Malta, paragraph 24

For the existing text, *substitute*

24. In promoting the idea of a parliamentary partnership — a council of the Mediterranean — Malta has always envisaged the creation of a permanent forum that would help develop and reinforce political cooperation between peoples with so many different languages, cultures, religions and ideologies. Such a permanent parliamentary institution would serve as a forum where politicians would meet on a regular basis to discuss problems emanating in the region, evaluate the difficulties faced in the resolution of such problems, explore potentialities of cooperation that exist and map out common political objectives. In this context, Malta has offered its facilities to host such a Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary partnership, in the belief that Malta's geo-strategic position could serve as a meeting place for the active involvement of parliaments in this partnership process and would also assist in bringing the discussion closer to the Mediterranean peoples themselves. Here, it would be relevant to recall that at the initiative of Malta a decision was taken by the Second Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, held in Malta from 1 to 4 November 1995, to set up an association of Mediterranean States, open to all the Mediterranean coastal countries and to those countries whose destiny is directly linked to that Sea, according to modalities to be defined.

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